

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed May 27, 2010 in the above-identified patent application.

Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1-5 and 7-9 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1 and 5 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. These amendments are fully supported by Applicant's disclosure see, for example, claim 6 (now canceled).

Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the ground that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant maintains the arguments set forth on page 6 of the previous Amendment responsive to the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, claims 1 and 5 are amended to include the operation unit 20 that includes a CPU, as illustrated, for example in Fig. 2 and described, for example, at page 14, lines 12-16 of Applicant's disclosure.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Tinsley, U.S. Patent No. 6,967,956 in view of Kimura et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0143975 and Kalavade et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/00510414. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 require a gateway comprising an operation unit that comprises a detection section configured to detect as conversion-process information a time said conversion section spent to convert the first signal or the second signal, a network-connecting section configured to connect to at least one of the first network and the second network and configured to transmit the conversion-process information to a fee-charging system of the first network or to a fee-charging system of the second network, wherein the gateway is configured to detect the conversion-

process information after the terminal of the first network and the terminal of the second network have been connected to each other.

Regarding claim 8, the Office Action at page 8, lines 1-3 states that Tinsley discloses detecting as conversion-process information a time spent to convert the first or second signal, said first or second signal having been transmitted after the first terminal and the second terminal have been connected to each other by the gateway. Further, regarding claim 6, the Office Action at page 9, lines 7-10 asserts that Tinsley discloses that the gateway detects the conversion-process information after the first terminal and the second terminal have been connected to each other.

Tinsley does not disclose or suggest that the gateway is configured to detect the conversion-process information after the terminal of the first network and the terminal of the second network have been connected to each other, as required by claims 1 and 5. Tinsley in the passages cited by the Office Action (col. 11, lines 1-5, 20-35, 46-67, and col. 13, lines 56-67) and throughout is silent as to such features. The remaining references are not cited by the Office Action as allegedly disclosing such features. Accordingly, even taken together in combination, Tinsley, Kimura and Kalavade do not disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 1 and 5.

Claim 8 requires a method of charging fees for a communication between networks of different types, comprising detecting as conversion-process information a times spent to convert the first or second signal, said first or second signal having been transmitted after the first terminal and the second terminal have been connected to each other by the gateway, and transmitting the conversion-process information to a fee-charging system of the network to which the first terminal or the second terminal that is a calling side is connected, by the gateway.

As discussed, Tinsley, Kimura and Kalavade do not disclose or suggest detecting as conversion-process information a times spent to convert the first or second signal, said first or second signal having been transmitted after the first terminal and the second terminal have been connected to each other by the gateway, as required by claim 8. Therefore, even taken together in combination, Tinsley, Kimura and Kalavade do not disclose or suggest the recitations of claim 8.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and claim 9 depends from claim 8. Therefore, claims 2 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and therefore the rejection is moot as to this claim.

Rejection of Claims 3,4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Tinsley, Kimura and Kalavade in view of Jabri, U.S. Patent Application Publication No.: 2003/0028643.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Tinsley, Kimura and Kalavade in view of Kauhanen, WO 02/052825. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

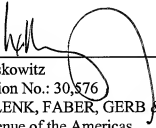
Jabri and Kauhanen do not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Tinsley, Kimura and Kalavade as they relate to the above-noted features of claims 1 and 5.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, and claim 7 depends from claim 5. Therefore, claims 3, 4 and 7 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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